State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Health Services

California
Department of
Health Services

DIANA M. BONTÁ, R.N., Dr. P.H.
Director
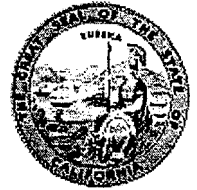
GRAY DAVIS
Governor

March 15, 2002

MMCD All Plan Letter 02002

TO: [X] County Organized Health System Plan (COHS)
                      [ ] Geographic Managed Care (GMC) Plans
                      [ ] Prepaid Health Plans (PHP)
                      [ ] Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) Plans
                      [ ] Two-Plan Model Plans

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MOVEMENT OF FAME FILES FROM THE
                      CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (CHHS)
                      DATA CENTER TO THE MEDI-CAL WEB SITE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this letter is to solicit feedback from County Organized Health System (GOHS) plans to determine the level of interest, as well as plan capability, in moving electronic transactions from the CHHS Data Center to the Medi-Cal web site. Those electronic transactions would include Fiscal Intermediary Access to MEDS Eligibility (FAME) file uploads, encounter data downloads, and all related electronic transactions. Plans who use the Medi-Cal Extranet for State Healthcare (MESH) systems have begun the process of converting from MESH to the Medi-Cal web site. The Medi-Cal Managed Care Division (MMCD) is now considering moving all non-MESH users electronic transactions to the Medi-Cal web site as well. Enclosed in this correspondence is a conversion response form. Please complete the response form, include any questions or concerns you have, and return to MMCD. MMCD needs to identify your plan's level of interest, as well as any concerns you may have regarding this possible conversion.

Flex your
POWER

Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

714 P Street, Room 523, P.O. Box 942732, Sacramento, CA, 94234-7320
(916) 654-8076
Internet Address: www.dhs.ca.gov

BACKGROUND

Currently, all Commercial Plans (CP), Geographic Managed Care Plans (GMC), Healthy San Diego (HSD), Local Initiatives (LI), Prepaid Health Plans (PHP), Special Plans (SP), and Targeted Case Management Plans (TCM) are obtaining Medi-Cal beneficiary information and uploading encounter data via MESH through daily and/or monthly downloads and uploads. As you know, the COHS' currently receive their eligibility files through the CHHS Data Center. Electronic Data Systems Corporation (EDS) maintains MESH. EDS recently proposed making the FAME file and encounter data transmissions accessible through Medi-Cal's Public Internet Infrastructure. This is consistent with the Department of Health Services (DHS) desire to have a single entry point to Medi-Cal related sources. DHS agreed to EDS' proposal regarding the design aspects of the conversion.

The new file upload and download site resides on the current secure Medi-Cal web site. The site was developed using the existing infrastructure and is currently in production for other Medi-Cal related transactions. Cosmetic changes are being made to the new site to bring it into conformance with the State's Style Implementation Guidelines for State-related web sites.

Implementation of the MESH conversion to the Medi-Cal web site began last month, February 2002. After a three-month testing period, the Sprint lines used to obtain the MESH file and for other electronic transactions, will be terminated. MMCD would be able to initiate the processes for the COHS conversion to the web site after the testing period for the MESH conversion concludes.

DISCUSSION

Recently, attendees of a Management Information System **(MIS)** Workgroup reviewed EDS' proposal for the conversion from MESH to the existing secure Medi-Cal website. All attendees expressed approval for the MESH conversion, primarily because of reduced costs to the plans and greater ease of access to the FAME files and encounter data services. MMCD requested meeting attendees to submit questions about the proposal. **DHS** staff responded to those questions as follows:

- What protocol will be used? Will a secure File Transfer Protocol (FTP) be used and will the security level be Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant?

    The HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) protocol will be used. The file transfer protocol will not be allowed after conversion is complete. The new system will have a front end and back end Firewall Server for security and will be HIPAA compliant.

- Will a third party validate the security of the firewalls?

    No third party will be validating the security of the firewall. This website has been functional for quite a while. MESH will be added to the Medi-Cal website. The site has been tested significantly since it was implemented. The testing document will be presented to DHS at a walkthrough with the results.

- Are any health plans performing beta testing?

    Yes, a test site will be up and will run concurrently with the current MESH website. Plans will be asked to submit test files.

- What is the contingency plan in case there are problems with the crossover from MESH to Internet?

    *If the crossover were to fail during the trial period, plans would still have the current MESH access to **FAME** files. (In the case of the COHS plans, access to the CHHS Data Center would remain available until all plans are successfully obtaining **files** from the web site)*

- Will the Internet access match the current site regarding file availability and encounter data?

    Yes.

- Will it have at least the same functionality as MESH currently has? If not, what will be lost? If it has more, what are the new functions?

    The new site will have the same file upload and download capabiiity. In addition, providers can check share of cost information, upload claims, check Medicare drug pricing, etc.

- What will the end-user cost be (from the plan's perspective)? Will the State pass any additional charges onto the plans?

    The only cost to the plans will be the cost of their Internet Service Provider (ISP). The State will impose no additional charges.

- What are the minimum system requirements to utilize the Medi-Cal web site for electronic transactions?

    The minimum system requirements are Windows 95 or higher, a Web browser, and a 28.8 kbps or faster modem.

PLAN RESPONSE REQUESTED

Please complete the enclosed response form and specify your level of interest , as well as state any concerns or questions you have about the possible conversion. MMCD will respond to your comments as timely **as** possible and responses will **be** directed to the contact specified on your response form. Responses are needed by **April** 12,2002.

If you have any questions, please contact Roy Johnson, Chief of the Systems Support Unit, at **(916)651-6639.**

Sincerely,

Cheri Rice, Chief
Medi-Cal Managed Care Division

Enclosure

DATA-CENTER-TO-WEB CONVERSION RESPONSE FORM
PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY APRIL 12, 2002 TO:

DEPT. OF HEALTH SERVICES   or fax to: (91**6) 440-5285**
MMCD/SYSTEMS SUPPORT UNIT   Attn: Sue Lyle
ATTN: SUE LYLE
714 P STREET, ROOM 523
SACRAMENTO, CA **95814**

PLAN NAME:_____   PLAN NUMBER(S):_____

❖ Is your plan interested in moving your FAME and encounter data transactions from the CHHS Data Center to the Medi-Cal web site? Please note any comments or concerns.

_____

_____

_____

> **To utilize the web site, the minimum system requirements are Windows 95 or higher, a Web browser, and a 28.8 kbps or faster modem.**

_____ OUR PLAN **CURRENTLY HAS ACCESS** TO THE INTERNET. ACCESS IS VIA:
- _____ **kbps (speed)** MODEM
- ISDN
- **Cable** MODEM
- DSL
- T I or **T3**
- OTHER: _____

_____ OUR PLAN **WILL HAVE ACCESS** TO THE INTERNET BY (DATE): _____

_____ OUR PLAN **WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS** FAME FILES AND ENCOUNTER DATA SERVICES VIA THE SECURE MEDI-CAL WEBSITE.

      REASON: _____

_____

_____   _____
Information Systems Officer Signature/Date   *Plan CEO Signature/Date*

> *If you specified that you would be unable to utilize the new site, or you posted questions, **who** would you like a response directed to?*
>
> *Name:* _____   *Title/Position:* _____
>
> *email:_____   Phone:! ____)_____*